

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10625 120930Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 HA-05 H-02 /026 W
-----095305 130113Z /15

R 120645Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2940

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10625

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (BENNETT, GARY DON)

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND DIETARY ASSISTANCE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED BOTH VERBAL AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DIETARY ASSISTANCE FROM AMERICAN CITIZEN PRISONER, GARY DON BENNETT, CURRENTLY SERVING TWO AND ONE-HALF YEAR SENTENCE FOR PASSING BOGUS CURRENCY. BENNETT IS DESTITUTE AND HAS ASKED FOR TWENTY DOLLAR PER MONTH STIPEND FOR A REGULAR SUPPLY OF WHITE RICE AND SOME CANNED GOODS. PRISON FARE IS LIMITED TO RED RICE, SOME VEGETABLES AND FISH OR MEAT FRAGMENTS. BENNETT AND MOST AMERICANS FIND THE OFFICIAL RATIONS UNPALATABLE AND LACKING IN NUTRITIONAL VALUE. MOST OTHER AMCITS RECEIVE AND SPEND A MINIMUM OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MONTH FOR FOOD.

2. EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO ASSIST BENNETT IN FINDING FINANCIAL AID WITHOUT SUCCESS. HIS MONEY AND AIRPLANE TICKETS DISAPPEARED FOLLOWING HIS ARREST. EMBASSY INQUIRIES WITH ARRESTING OFFICERS HAVE MET WITH NO RESULTS.

BENNETT INDICATES THAT HIS ONLY KIN IS AN AGED FATHER WHO LIVES ON A SMALL PENSION AND CANNOT AFFORD TO HELP HIM.

3. EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR CITIZEN'S FROM LOCAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS COULD NOT SUSTAIN MORE THAN A SMALL CONTRIBUTION.

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4. BENNETT IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN AUGUST 1979 BUT MAY GET OUT AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1978 IF EXPECTED ROYAL AMNESTY MATERIALIZES. BENNETT HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SIGN A PROMISSORY NOTE TO THE USG.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S

VIEWS ON WHETHER THE EMDA PROGRAM CAN SUBSIDIZE MR.
BENNETT'S NUTRITIONAL NEEDS UNTIL REGULAR DIETARY
SUPPLEMENT SUPPLIES ARE FURNISHED TO OVERSEAS POSTS
OR UNTIL HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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